



Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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CELEBRATE YOUR FAITH! JUNE 16-17

Program of the Conference

1. Learning Centers

Delegates to the Conference will have an opportunity to choose a Learning Center to which they will go to learn about such things as Shalom Curriculum, the Ministry, the Aging, Social Action, Women's Fellowship programs and materials, Men's Fellowship Breakfasts and other programs, Evangelism—which includes Key 73, Confirmation Classes, and the new program of Evangelism envisioned by the United Church of Christ, Conference Youth, Identity Program, Faith Exploration Events, etc.

LEADERS OF THE Conference are: Mrs. F. C. Lester, who is closing out 10 years with the Council for Lay Life and Work; Hartland H. Helmich, chairman of the Council; Ken Stokes, pastor of United Church in Gainesville, Florida, and now associated with the Council for Christian Social Action; Yvonne Delk, formerly Director of Religious Education at First Church, Atlanta, but now with the Division of Christian Education offices in Philadelphia; Karlton C. Johnson of the Stewardship Council, who will be assisted by the Outreach Commission in the presentation of Our Christian World Mission; Leon Dickinson of the Council for Church and Ministry, offices in New York City.

Those who will be sharing in the leadership of the Conference besides the national staff will be many lay leaders of the Southeast Conference who have participated in Faith Exploration Events in local churches as well as in clusters of churches. Some of these will be also in charge of the Learning Centers. Franklin Thomas, national chairman of the Council for Lay Life and Work, will be assisting so.

2. Commissions

The Commission on Church and Ministry had a meeting May 25-26 at LaGrange



Southern Union College Is Scene Of Annual Meeting

College, LaGrange, Georgia, in which a program dealing with Evangelism was tentatively developed. Student ministers — which includes several who are just beginning in the ministry — met with the Commission and will be meeting with Rev. Leon Dickinson Jr. of the Council for Church and Ministry, at the Conference sessions in Wadley. The student ministers will be joined by those recently ordained to gain further insight into the task of the minister.

The Outreach Commission will present an "Identity Program" as part of a five-year long-range program. In the presentation will be tapes used on radio stations, ads that were placed in newspapers, brochures which churches can use for distribution to members and prospective members, and a slide program on Saturday evening at the Conference, indicating the rich history of our churches in the Southeast Conference. Each church will have an opportunity to see the guide that is being prepared for local church use.

(Continued on Page 2)

This seventh annual meeting of the Southeast Conference will be a celebration of our faith. Although there will be items of business and Learning Centers, the Conference climaxes four months of many Faith Exploration Events held in local churches and in clusters of churches. It is estimated that 40 churches have already participated and more than 500 people have been involved.

Faith Exploration has been under the auspices of the Council for Lay Life and Work and of the Commission on Christian Education of the Southeast Conference. Rev. Hartland Helmich, Director of the Council for Lay Life and Work, will lead the annual meeting in this celebration of faith. The climax of the Conference will be on Sunday morning, June 17, in a closing service of worship.

The annual meeting will be held at Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama, beginning with registration at 9:00 a. m. and call to worship at 11:00 a. m., on Saturday, June 16th. Delegates will be housed in a dormitory and sessions of the Conference will be held in the dining hall.



Ministers' Convocation Held At Southern Union College

The 1973 Ministers' Convocation for the Southeast Conference was held on May 7, 8, and 9 at Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama, with a good attendance and much interest.

Rev. William T. Scott, minister of Central Congregational Church, Atlanta, gave the course, "Religion — What's the Use?" He stretched the minds of those present as he described religion and how to use it.

Rev. and Mrs. Harry Bredeweg, minister and wife of the Kentucky-Indiana Conference, gave a plan of action which included three values: Study, Sharing, and Service.

Rev. and Mrs. Neil Moseley, minister and wife of First Church, Savannah, gave the devotions, highlighting individuals in Christian music and life in a testimonial manner.

Those who attended were Bill and Carey Andes, Floyd and Jerri Carmack, Neil and Annette Moseley, Warren Blankenhorn, Olin and Bobbie Sheppard, David Naglee and family, who gave an excellent Musical program, Harold and Virginia Auler, Steve Gray, George Hawkins, B. L. Butler, Allen and Gloria Hollis, Don and Jo Ann Flick, David and Judy Beebe, Bill Hodnett, James and Margaret McAdams, Jim Jackson, A. R. and Jewell Van Cleave, Joe and Anna French, Ellis and Bessie Fann, Bill Scott, Harry and Imogene Bredeweg, Jim and Gen Cowlshaw, Tom Medders.

Terrell Shaddix, a former officer in Southeast Conference Youth, has recently gone into the Navy. If you would like to drop him a note, please do so. He would be glad to hear from you.

SR Brannon T. Shaddix

USN 424-70-6067

Co. 089 Recruit Training Command
Orlando, Fla. 32813



The Rev. Hartland H. Helmich, Executive Secretary of the Council for Lay Life and Work.



Mrs. F. C. Lester (Emily), Associate Secretary, Southern Office (N. C.) of the Council for Lay Life and Work.

Both Dr. Helmich and Dr. Lester will be leading the Conference sessions at Southern Union College in the Celebration of Our Faith.

PROGRAM OF CONFERENCE (Continued from Page 1)

The Education Commission

Faith Exploration has been the main project of the Commission this year. The goal is that every church participate in some Faith Exploration Event by the end of 1973. The Celebration of our Faith is being held at this Conference session.

One Youth Mini-Camp was held April 27-29, 1973, at Roosevelt State Park with 120 people participating in Faith Exploration. This was primarily for Southern Alabama area.

Two Youth Mini-Conferences have been held in Tennessee (Chattanooga and Nashville) and one in North Alabama at Mt. Grove Church.

The Commission is engaged in a study of "Christian Nurture in Local Churches," shares in the Atlanta Education Resourcing Services Center, participates in the Birmingham Audio Visual Library, and has been concerned with Women's Fellowship and Laymen's Fellowship.

3. Committees

The Finance Committee drew up a budget for 1973 and it was printed in the March issue of SOUTHEAST NEWS. The budget indicates that more than half of all funds received by the Southeast Conference is funneled back into the local churches as service rendered to the churches.

The Long-Range Planning Committee will present a general program of advance under the theme, "Let's Grow Together." Delegates will be called upon to set their goals for programs they would like to see

accomplished.

The 17-76 Achievement Fund Committee will have suggestions for goals to be met in the 17-76 Campaign, in which the United Church of Christ seeks to raise \$17,000,000 for the AMA colleges in the South and for educational institutions overseas.

The Place Committee for the 1974 session of Conference is recommending that we accept the invitation to hold the Conference in Chattanooga in 1974.

Rev. Joe A. French is chairman of the Committee on Memoirs, and he would like the names of ministers and other church leaders who may have died during the past year.

The members of the Resolutions Committee are: Wilson Welch, Nashville; Mrs. Carl Jeter, Atlanta; Rene Chetelat, Birmingham; E. A. Jones, Atlanta; and John Bridges, Demorest. Persons or churches having resolutions should forward the same to a member of this committee.

What's It All About?

It is about Faith Exploration. It is about you, your Christian faith, your nodding acquaintances, your family, your church, your enemies, your community, your life in general and in particular.

It is most unlikely that you will ever be quite the same person again — after you explore your faith. People who have participated in such a group testify that it is a personally rewarding experience. One "past 40" lady declared, "Imagine at my age, I do believe I've caught religion." We could use an epidemic of this variety to really unite our United Church of Christ — and to put Christ first in it.

MINI-CAMP HELD AT PINE MOUNTAIN

From Nashville, Tenn., to the Gulf of Mexico they came — in VW's, trucks, automobiles, and buses. One hundred and five young people and leaders from 17 churches stayed the whole time, while 15 others could be present only part-time.

The event? The Southern Alabama Area Mini-Camp held at Roosevelt State Park near Pine Mountain, Georgia.

Of the 120 people attending, 86 were youth. The emphasis was "Faith Exploration", and during the closing evaluation of the camp, all felt that they had a better understanding of their Christian faith than ever before. Great meals, plenty of recreation (including chilly swimming by the hardy souls) and group games led by Nan Jackson of LaGrange United, made the weekend of April 27, 28, 29 all too short.

This was the first time that the churches of the Central, South and East Alabama Associations have had opportunity to join together for a youth activity; and another Mini-Camp is being planned for the fall of this year on or near the coast of Florida. The South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association will be our hosts.

The campers were divided into groups of 9 or 10 and shared their thinking within their own group. The Rev. Harold Auler spoke on "The Statement of Faith", then each group studied it and presented a charade before the total group.

Dr. David Naglee of LaGrange United conducted inspirational services Sunday morning. Ministers and laymen led the small groups, encouraging even the timid to express themselves. This was truly a weekend for the sharing of faith.

Rev. Alton Nixon of Baker, Florida, brought a school bus load of youth from Pyron's Chapel and Good Hope Churches. Nashville First Church and United Church at Huntsville, Alabama, had representatives. We hope that more from outside our Southern Alabama Area will join us this fall on the Gulf of Mexico.

Our first-rate cook was Rev. B. L. Butler of Andalusia.

Other churches represented: First, Andalusia, Blackwood, LaGrange-United and Hillside; Lanett, Langdale, Roanoke Lowell, New Hope Clio, Noon Day Wedowee, Oak Grove, Pyron's Chapel, Baker, and Roanoke Rock Stand.

Mr. J. K. Murphy, Coordinator of the Commission on Religious Education for the Conference, was the able camp director.

Dr. David Stowe, Of BWM, Cites UCC Issues

"Three issues are crucial for the United Church of Christ in the 1970's. All are issues of balance, of perspective, of judgment. They test our faith that God does enlighten and guide his church and our General Synod by his Holy Spirit.

"One issue is the relation between the local relevance and the world-wide outreach of the United Church of Christ. 'Whole Earth, Whole People' was the theme of the last General Synod. This time the planning committee is highly concerned that the Synod be an occasion for strengthening the identity and self-understanding of our denomination itself. 'Obviously both are necessary. We live amid strong pressures for America to reduce its commitments overseas, to concentrate on setting its own house in order, to clarify its purposes. The churches are not exempt from these pressures, nor should they neglect the immediate concerns of congregation and community. 'But in a time of growing world inter-dependence will the United Church of Christ turn in upon itself, fascinated with the question, 'Who am I?' while neglecting to ask 'What does God expect his Christians to be doing in His world?' At many points General Synod will deal with that tension of out-look and in-look.

"A second issue concerns the relation of the ultimates and concern for the immediacies. We tend to polarize around these two — those convinced that mankind has a spirit struggle with those convinced that it has a body. Or, we collapse both emphases into one: 'Action for social justice is the only true evangelism'; or 'Only through the conversion of individuals can we achieve social justice.'

"But surely we are both spirit and body. More accurately, we are spirit-body with no neat line between the two. Our ministry has to be not only word and deed, but word-in-deed and deeds-which-speak. This is precisely the way in which the Board for World Ministries has been working to deepen and sharpen the evangelistic dimension in every aspect of its ministries which are for the most part social and practical.

"Finally, there is competition between ministry to the individual and ministry to the community. Some argue that if individuals are renewed and redeemed the social questions will take care of themselves. Others insist that only by righting social systems which embody racism, exploitation, violence, will individuals be able to find redemption.

Nothing is real in human terms unless it finds embodiment in actual living persons. No system can be better than the persons who make it up.

But neither are there any persons who do

McCook To Travel — Study In Israel

Dr. Charles F. McCook, professor at LaGrange College, LaGrange, Georgia, will travel and study in Israel from July 4 through August 10, when he will go to Athens, Greece, to study the Archeology of Palestine and the Archeology of Jerusalem at Hebrew University.

His wife and daughter will stay in Jerusalem at the Kibbutz Yifaat, the same place which has served as host to other LaGrange College seminars to Israel.

Dr. McCook will be available for speaking on Biblical Archeology after he returns to LaGrange August 14.

Harold Rucker, a member of Central Church, Atlanta, Ga., has been appointed Regional Consultant for Nebraska and Kansas-Oklahoma Conferences. Harold graduated from Wichita High School East, Oklahoma Baptist College, Eastern Baptist Seminary (Louisville, Ky.). He has worked for three years for the US Department of Justice in Jackson, Mississippi. He has transferred his standing to the UCC. He will move his family, which includes his wife and five children, to Wichita. He begins his work on May 15, using office space in the Conference office.

not live in some kind of community, who are not deeply and continuously affected by the society around them.

"Around the world our ministries seek to foster an encounter of individual persons with Jesus Christ; and at the same time they work tirelessly at making the spirit of Jesus effective in social structures. A wisdom large enough to focus the work of our whole church on persons-in-society is what we must hope for in the Ninth General Synod."

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NOMINEES TO GENERAL SYNOD



JUDGE HAYWOOD

Judge Margaret A. Haywood, Washington, D. C., has been nominated to serve as moderator of the United Church of Christ. If elected, she will be the first woman to hold the top unsalaried position in the two-million-member denomination.

The Rev. Dr. Robert V. Moss, now completing his first term as president of the denomination, and Charles H. Lockyear, Director of Finance and Treasurer, have been nominated for re-election.

Elections will take place at the biennial General Synod meeting in St. Louis, June 22-26. Nominations from the floor may also be made for all elective offices.

Judge Haywood was the first Black woman to be appointed an associate justice of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. She was nominated by President Nixon in March, 1972.

Nominees for the two positions of assistant moderator are Rev. Dr. Louis H. Gunnemann, Vice-President for Academic Administration of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, Minn., and 21-year-old Chaz W. Elicker, Seattle, a student at the University of Washington.



The Conference Moderator, Mrs. Walter (Peggy) Hall, wife of the pastor of Community Church, Pleasant Hill, Tenn., has served for two years as Moderator, and before that, two years as Vice-Moderator. She has attended many meetings and has been a delegate twice to General Synod.

Oak Grove Church Plans ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR

Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church plans to have an Arts and Crafts Fair on a 165-acre tract of meadow and forest land, August 18-19, 1973, near the church at Pine Mountain, Ga. Profits from the fair will be used to aid young people studying for the ministry, matching funds for aiding churches to build or remodel, aid distressed people, etc.

Persons or groups interested in renting a booth for exhibit and sale are invited to write to:

Mr. Delton Hoxsie, Business Mgr.

OAK GROVE ARTS AND CRAFTS
FAIR

Route 2

Pine Mountain, Ga. 31822

Entertainment and refreshments for children and adults are to be provided during each day.

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Pastor of the Wadley Congregational Christian Church is the Rev. A. R. Van Cleave. While serving as pastor, he also was on the faculty of Southern Union College.

He and his wife, Jewel, along with others from the church, college, and community, will be ministering to our needs when the Conference meets at Southern Union College, June 16, 17, 1973.

Dr. Guy Colbert, pastor-at-large of North Alabama Association and president of the Rotary Club in Hartselle, Alabama, was a delegate to "Rotary International", which met in Lucerne, Switzerland, May 13-17, 1973.

Carl Stiefelmeyer, of the St. John's Church, Cullman, Alabama, was also a delegate to Rotary International. His wife accompanied him to Europe.

CARMEN BASSLER

Carmen Bassler, a former Southeast Conference youth officer, has just returned from San Salvador, Central America, on a good will ambassador tour. She was on the court for Miss San Salvador.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Congratulations to St. John's Church, Cullman, Ala., on reaching and surpassing their Easter Sunday, April 22, 1973, goal, with 412 people present and with an offering of \$2,189.00. Rev. George Fidler is the pastor.